

Subject Allowing innovation zone partners to use alternative assessments

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Summary

In 2017, Minnesota enacted innovation research zone pilot program legislation that allows school districts to partner with one another, and with other public and private entities, to apply to MDE for approval to try novel plans for education and report on the outcomes. MDE has since approved five partnerships and plans. The law allows exemptions for these approved partnerships from several categories of education laws and rules. This bill would add an additional exemption, allowing an approved partnership to seek permission from MDE to substitute a nationally recognized high school academic assessment, the ACT for example, instead of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments through the 2024-2025 school year only. The partnership would have to report assessment participation rates and other outcomes to the Department of Education.